

Message Text

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14

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00

DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /097 W

----- 100219

R 211630Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6019

INFO AMEMBASSY ALGIERS

AMEMBASSY COLOMBO

AMEMBASSY DAKAR

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY RABAT

AMEMBASSY SEOUL

USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L NOUAKCHOTT 1744

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PORG, UN, US, MR

SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: MAURITANIA RESPONDS TO US DIPL
OMACY -- PUERTO RICO, GUAM KOREA

REF: (A) STATE 178439, (B) USUN 2940, (C) SEOUL 5250

1. MAURITANIAN MINISTER OF STATE FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAMDI OULD MOUKNASS TOOK OCCASION OF SESSION ON ANOTHER TOPIC LAST WEEK (JUST BEFORE HE BOARDED YET ANOTHER OUTBOUND AIRCRAFT) TO INFORM ME THAT GIRM HAS TAKEN GOVERNMENT-LEVEL DICSION TO MAKE MAJOR EFFORT TO ACCOMMODATE US FOREIGN POLICY GOALS. MOUKNASS REPORTED THAT HE HAD JUST SIGNED OUT WRITTEN INSTRUCTIONS TO MAURITANIAN US DELEGATION TO ABSTAIN ON ALL "THIRD WORLD" ISSUES WHICH DIRECTLY AFFECT IMPORTANT US INTERESTS. PARALLEL INSTRUCTIONS ARE TO BE SENT TO ALL GIRM EMBASSIES AND HANDED TO ALL GIRM CONFERENCE DELEGATIONS.

2. MINISTER NOTED THAT GIRM AND ITS REPRESENTATIVES

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WOULD OF COURSE EXCEPT FROM NEW ACCOMMODATING STANCE ANY

SITUATION OR ISSUE WHICH TOUCHES VITAL INTERESTS OF MAURITANIA, SUCH AS (EXPLICITLY) CONTINUING EFFORT TO SECURE RIGHTS OF PALESTINIAN PEOPLE. MAOUKNASS ALSO OBSERVED LACONICALLY THAT GIRM WOULD EXPECT US TO SUPPORT MAURITANIAN PURSUIT OF INTERESTS IT CONSIDERS VITAL. WARMING A BIT TO HIS SUBJECT, MINISTER DECLARED IT WAS STANDARD AND ACCEPTED PRACTICE IN NORMAL RELATIONS AMONG STATES FOR REPRESENTATIVES TO SET FORTH POSITIONS OF THEIR GOVERNMENT AND TO ATTEMPT TO PERSUADE THEIR COUNTERPARTS TO ADOPT THEIR VIEWS, WITH ULTIMATE HOPE OF INDUCING COUNTERPARTS TO SET ABOUT CONVINCING STILL OTHERS. MOUKNASS REPORTED DIRECTOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS AND SECRETARY GENERAL HAD BRIEFED HIM IN DETAIL ON PRESENTATIONS I HAD MADE ON UNGA AND WAWU ISSUES AND US SENSITIVITIES, AND THAT HE HAD REFLECTED AT LENGTH ON THESE CONVERSATIONS. (HE MADE NO MENTION OF EVEN FRANKER DISCUSSIONS I HAD WITH AMBASSADOR DESIGNATE KOCHMAN ON GUAM AND PUERTO RICO PRIOR TO HIS DEPARTURE FOR US.) HE THEN NOTED THAT HE EXPECTS US TO LISTEN IN TURN TO PRESENTATION OF GIRM POSITIONS.

3. NEW INSTRUCTIONS TO MAURITANIAN UN DELEGATION SPECIFICALLY INSTRUCT GIRM REPRESENTATIVES IN NEW YORK TO ABSTAIN ON PUERTO RICO AND GUAM. ACCORDING TO MOUKNASS, ANOTHER UNGA ISSUE OF IMPORTANCE TO US, KOREA, POSES SLIGHTLY DIFFERENT PROBLEM. MINISTER DECLARED GIRM COULD NOT REVERSE ITS FIELD FROM ONE DAY TO NEXT. NO SERIOUS GOVERNMENT CAN DO FLIP-FLOP OVERNIGHT AND EXPECT TO RETAIN EITHER ITS POSITION AS SERIOUS GOVERNMENT OR INTERNATIONAL RESPECT. GIRM HAS THEREFORE ALTERED ITS KOREAN POLICY FOR 31ST UNGA IN ONLY MODEST BUT NONETHELESS SIGNIFICANT FASHION. GIRM NOW FAVORS DIRECT NEGOTIATIONS BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA AS PART OF PURSUIT OF PEACEFUL SOLUTION TO KOREAN QUESTION. GIRM REPRESENTATIVES WILL, MOREOVER, REMAIN IN BACKGROUND ON KOREAN QUESTION IN UP-COMING INTERNATIONAL MEETINGS. IN CONTRAST TO CLEARCUT STANCE ON ISLAND ISSUES (FORMAL ABSTENTION), MOUKNASS WAS STUDIOUSLY VAGUE ON DEFINITION OF "REMAINING IN BACKGROUND", SUGGESTING EITHER THAT GIRM HAS NOT YET DECIDED BETWEEN

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ABSTENTION AND PHYSICAL ABSENCE ON KOREAN VOTES OR THAT IT PLANS TO POSTPONE FINAL CHOICE UNTIL SPECIFIC UNGA TACTICAL DECISION ARISES IN CONCRETE FORM.

HANDYSIDE

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